



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TENNESSEE RECEIVES \$1 MILLION IN EMERGENCY HEATING ASSISTANCE *FUNDS TO BENEFIT THOUSANDS OF ELIGIBLE LOW INCOME FAMILIES*

NASHVILLE --The Tennessee Department of Human Services was recently awarded more than one million dollars for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The emergency aid for heating assistance was approved by Congress in anticipation of higher heating fuel costs this season. The benefits will be made available through the local agency that administers LIHEAP funds in January.

"Staying warm during the cold winter months isn't easy for a lot of Tennesseans," said Human Services Commissioner Virginia T. Lodge. "Thousands simply can't afford the high cost of heating their homes. This additional LIHEAP assistance will go a long way toward keeping some of the state's most vulnerable individuals warm and safe this season."

More than 12,000 low income and disabled adult Tennessee households will benefit from the LIHEAP emergency assistance this year. Last year, Tennessee received \$550,000 in emergency heating assistance, which aided just over 6,500 households.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program is 100% federally funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The program is administered through a network of 19 non-profit and local government agencies and is available in all 95 counties.

Eligibility for LIHEAP benefits is based on established federal poverty guidelines. Activities consist of a special summer cooling program (\$350 maximum payment) and regular and emergency heating assistance (\$350 maximum payment). Last year, more than 61,000 households were served through the three programs. The assistance is made in the form of a payment to the utility company or home energy provider.

For a list of local LIHEAP agencies where applications for heating assistance can be made, please click on the following link:

<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/liheap-agencies-05.pdf>

For more information about the Department of Human Services and its programs, please click on the following link: <http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv>

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